

REMARKS

The Office Action has required restriction, under 35 U.S.C. §121, to a single species of the invention. In making the restriction requirement, the Office Action alleges that there are the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: claims 18-26 and 52-60. The Office Action requires Applicants to elect a single disclosed species.

Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that the Office Action has made an improper restriction requirement. Nevertheless, Applicants provisionally elects claims 1-64, 66-68, and 75-80.

As noted in M.P.E.P. § 806.04(e), claims are definitions of inventions, and are never species. Species are always the specifically different embodiments of the invention. M.P.E.P. § 806.04(e). The Office Action has not identified any portion of the specification or drawings that allegedly correspond to the different species. Instead, the Office Action simply lists a subset of claims. However, as already noted, claims are never species and the Office Action's apparent designation of these claims as species is improper.

The present application contains a genus corresponding to the network of Fig. 1. The flowcharts of Figs. 2-4 relate to processing associated with the genus. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-64, 66-68, and 75-80 of the present application relate to the genus. Therefore, examination of claims 1-64, 66-68, and 75-80 is proper.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the restriction requirement, and the favorable examination of all of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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